21 March 1983

His Excellency Mr Rahmi Gümrükçüoğlu
Turkish Embassy
43 Belgrave Square
London SW1

Excellency,

The world, Muslim and non-Muslim alike, has been deeply shocked at the outcome of the trial of Dr Necmettin Erbakan and his colleagues, and at the long terms of imprisonment imposed on them.

Dr Erbakan is a renowned Turkish patriot and a former Deputy Premier of his country. He is now condemned and imprisoned because he has expressed his beliefs and convictions.

The indignation felt by the Islamic Council at this injustice is a reflection of that felt by all who care for and believe in the freedom of expression and belief, and the right of every person to basic human rights.

Through its great historic role, Turkey is dear and close to the heart of every Muslim, and it is for this reason that we call upon the President of Turkey to rescind these sentences . We pray that he will do so , so that the damage done to Turkey's image in the world may be speedily repaired.

Yours sincerely,

Salem Azzam
Secretary General